

U.S. Appln. No. 09/940,552
Reply to Office Action dated April 7, 2006

PATENT
450100-03425

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. Independent claims 1, 4 and 7 are amended in this response. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification, specifically in paragraphs 31 and 32 of the Specification. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicant is entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,903,706 to Wakabayashi et al. ("Wakabayashi"). Claims 3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Wakabayashi.

As understood by Applicant, Wakabayashi relates to an imager apparatus with a rotatable camera head that can generate an upright image when a video camera is rotated about a horizontal axis to face to substantially the same direction as a display unit does. Wakabayashi is

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directed to a video camera unit made compact to realize a reduction in weight of a video camera rotating mechanism, with an image arrangement convertor circuit provided between the video camera unit and a liquid crystal display serving as a display unit or a recording unit. The unit comprises a switch for detecting an angular position of the video camera unit. The video camera, which has an imager device and a lens, is pivoted on an edge of the housing for rotation about an axis parallel to the edge. The image arrangement convertor circuit is operated unitarily in accordance with an angular position of the video camera to automatically correct an upside-down image to an upright image. The unit also allows the user to adjust the angle of the video camera unit only with the thumb and index finger.

Amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“A portable information terminal including a camera section capable of imaging or shooting an image ... and an operation input means for inputting an instruction for operation of said camera section, wherein said instruction is one of transferring of said image signal through said image control means and ending the transfer of said image signal through said image control means.”
(emphasis added)

Applicant respectfully submits that Wakabayashi fails to teach or disclose the above identified feature of claim 1. Specifically, Wakabayashi does not teach or suggest a portable information terminal including a camera section capable of imaging or shooting an image, the portable information terminal comprising an operation input means for inputting an instruction for operation of the camera section, wherein the instruction is one of (a) transferring of the image signal through the image control means and (b) ending the transfer of the image signal through the image control means.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that independent claim 1 is patentable. For reasons similar to the above, independent claims 4 and 7 are also believed to be patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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